

S-E-C-R-E-T

23 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs
FROM: Chief, FBIS
SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Latin American Coups: Excellent performance by FBIS bureaus covering Latin America enabled the FBIS Wire Service to report military coups in the Dominican Republic and Honduras before local press agencies. The wire flashed the East Coast Bureau's first item on the 25 September Dominican coup 14 minutes before the local A.P. wire carried the story. The initial monitored report of the 3 October coup in Honduras, filed by the Panama Bureau, cleared the FBIS Wire 20 minutes ahead of the first A.P. dispatch, and a later Honduras report monitored by the East Coast Bureau also was filed prior to the first A.P. bulletin. The bureaus concerned are commended not only for the first handling of the initial newsbreaks but also for subsequent excellent coverage and coordination. [redacted]

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2. Indonesian Crisis: The Indonesian crisis engendered in mid-September by the formal birth of Malaysia elicited wide interest in FBIS material from the area. The Okinawa Bureau maintained an open watch on radio Djakarta and several special requests were serviced. Coverage of a new clandestine transmitter, the Voice of Free Malayan Union, was instituted, a 25 September Sukarno speech was transmitted to British Foreign Secretary Lord Home at the United Nations, and copies of all items bearing on the situation were given special distribution from Headquarters. [redacted]

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3. Sino-Soviet Polemic: FBIS material dealing with the Sino-Soviet polemic continues to be much in demand. It is now routine to carry authoritative statements on the issue on the wire and to print hundreds of extra copies for special distribution throughout the intelligence community. Special requests for the material are also common. For example, Under Secretary of State Harriman recently was supplied copies of RPB's Trends and Highlights and Surveys of Communist Bloc Broadcasts and Daily Report Supplements on the Sino-Soviet polemic going back to 1 July. [redacted]

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Group 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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4. Cuban Hurricane Damage: The Key West Bureau's expeditious handling of a request for coverage of Cuban telecasts showing Hurricane Flora damage was commended by OCR which held screenings for a large group of interested consumers, some of whom requested edited copies of the films for their own use. []

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5. Statements by U.S. Citizens: Official interest in statements by U.S. citizens while in Bloc countries, including Cuba, continues to be high. The White House, for example, requested all information available on U.S. representatives at a recent congress of architects in Havana. Close attention of field editors to flagging such items "Copy to Liaison" is greatly appreciated. []

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6. War Themes File: A selection of statements from RPB's War Themes file on public Soviet estimates of casualties that would result from a general nuclear war were provided to OCI in support of a Current Intelligence Memorandum on the subject prepared at DCI request. []

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7. Radio Propaganda Reports: []

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a. A review of "CEMA Developments, July 1962 - July 1963," issued as RS.64, updates an earlier study published in August 1962. An appendix traces the attendance by members and "observers" of the bloc economic coordination body at all meetings publicized in communist media.

b. CD.234, "The 59 U.S. Students' Visit to Cuba," reviewed Cuban propaganda on the visit and the manner in which Havana exploited statements by the students. Copies were furnished the Office of the General Counsel. This was the 10th report in the special series on Cuban media.

c. "Dispute Between Chinese and Soviet Theoreticians Over War as an Instrument of Policy," CD.235, defines Soviet and Chinese viewpoints on this issue on the basis of a recent debate between the CPR's Red Flag and People's Daily and a number of Soviet newspapers.

d. The sixth in the series on public appearances of Soviet leaders was issued as RS.65.

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8. Analysis Wire Item: A propaganda analysis item on the FBIS Wire called attention to signs of indecision in Soviet handling of news on the purchase of U.S. grain. One piece of evidence involved a passage not contained in the TASS embargoed text of a Khrushchev speech supplied by the Mediterranean Bureau but included in the version later released by Moscow and supplied by the London Bureau. [REDACTED]

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9. Special Wire Service: Through the rewiring of existing circuits, the FBIS Wire Service is now able to transmit restricted material, such as point-to-point intercepts and press service messages, exclusively to the OCI Watch Office without suspending service to other wire consumers. Switching facilities also permit utilization of the second teletype printer to provide extra copies of regular wire items in the Watch Office if desired. [REDACTED]

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10. Bulk Deliveries: The switchover to bulk delivery of FBIS publications to major military components has essentially been completed. Thus the military, the Department of State, and USIA have assumed internal responsibility for passing these publications to individual users and the Printing Services Division's task of distribution has been greatly simplified. [REDACTED]

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11. Distribution Aberrations: Despite attempts to lessen PSD's printing and distribution problems, irregularities in production and dissemination still occur with annoying frequency, as is evidenced by many errors in distribution to our own field bureaus. Intensive coordination efforts are being made to evolve foolproof systems which will eliminate these irregularities. [REDACTED]

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12. Publication Innovations: The entire Latin America Daily Report was switched to the offset printing process beginning 2 October. Offset mats are being produced both by the semiautomatic Flexowriter/mark-sensor unit and regular typewriter. A new approach was used 30 September when a long Castro speech was reproduced on mats for Daily Report publication from reperforated tapes of the Wire Service edited version. This method eliminates double editing and greatly reduces the amount of electronic pencil marking and operator interruptions during tape production of mats. [REDACTED]

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13. Reaction Report: A 16-page World Reaction Report published 24 September collated radio and press comment on President Kennedy's 20 September address to the United Nations General Assembly. The report was delivered to the President by courier plane while he was on a cross-country tour. [REDACTED]

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14. Daily Report Supplements: The Far East Daily Report published a 30-page supplement 26 September containing the third article in the Peking People's Daily-Red Flag series on the Sino-Soviet polemic, entitled "Is Yugoslavia a Socialist Country?" which attacked both Tito and Khrushchev. A 35-page USSR-East Europe Daily Report supplement on 3 October contained a long Khrushchev speech detailing Soviet agricultural difficulties and the admission that the USSR had to buy grain abroad. []

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15. Press Scrutiny: In September 90 percent of the Daily Report was devoted to broadcast material and 10 percent to press scrutiny, the same percentages as in August. []

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16. Microfilming of Daily Reports: Microfilming of the 1941-1951 issues of the Daily Report has been started by the Printing Services Division. The PSD films plus copies of those in the CIA Library will give FBIS a complete microfilm file of the Daily Report since its inception. []

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17. Lateral Services: Significant material on the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity meeting in Cyprus was forwarded to the American Embassy in Nicosia through the Mediterranean Bureau. The Mediterranean Bureau added items from the Kurdish broadcasts of the National Voice of Iran to its wirefile to the American Embassies in Baghdad and Damascus. The London Bureau provided the 20 September USSR statement on the CPR and Gromkyo's opening U.N. speech to Department of State delegates at the NATO Strategic Studies Conference at Cambridge University. The Tokyo Bureau began wirefiling a copy of the "Pink Sheet" to the American Consulate in Hong Kong, its material is now being forwarded to the Japan Self-Defense Forces, and four more local offices requested copies of the bureau's Akahata daily summary. []

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18. Construction and Renovation: At the Mediterranean Bureau construction of a new warehouse, exterior painting of the operations buildings, renovation of the kitchen, and a macadam paving project were completed. The West Coast Bureau building was waterproofed and East Coast Bureau buildings were repainted. []

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FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

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[REDACTED]

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20. Coverage Plans: Reports to FOS on new programs should always include coverage or other handling planned. As far as possible this should not be reported as part of cruising messages to BIS. [REDACTED]

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21. Hurricane Precautions: To forestall possible damage to valuable equipment during hurricanes, the Key West Bureau will evacuate its operations building whenever the Navy declares "Condition One." Arrangements have been made for a local moving company to load equipment in a van immediately and move the van into a hurricane-proof warehouse. Classified material will be stored with the Navy. The bureau will thus suspend operations during severe storms. [REDACTED]

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ADMINISTRATION

22. Official Visits: [REDACTED] Deputy Chief, Administrative Staff, visited the Key West and Panama Bureaus. [REDACTED]

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23. Recognition Recommendations: Supervisors are reminded that when an employee's overall performance is rated "Outstanding" on his Fitness Report an attachment indicating proposed special recognition should accompany the report, as stipulated in the Directions for Completing Form 45 [REDACTED]

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24. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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EDITORIAL

1. Divided Country Designations: All items, and especially briefs, which report on divided countries such as Germany, Vietnam, Korea, and China should indicate clearly which country is meant in each reference. If the broadcast fails to make it clear which country is meant, this should be indicated by an appropriate editorial note. Example: "...trade with Germany (not specified--ed.)."

2. Omitted Apostrophes: There have been many instances recently of copy from the field omitting apostrophes in possessives such as people's government, people's welfare, and People's Daily.

3. Congo Provincial Names: The names of provinces in the Republic of Congo, Leopoldville, should be rendered in the French form to agree with standard usage, for example Nord Katanga and Haut Congo.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Financial Status Reports: Financial Status Reports should include the last pay period of the month. Bureaus may estimate costs for the last pay period when payrolls are not available at reporting time.

2. Interbureau Transfers: Bureau Chiefs should review regarding transfers between bureaus and time allowed.

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3. Insurance Claims: Health Insurance Form 1618, Government Employees Health Association Claim, is for Headquarters and domestic field bureaus use only. It is requested that overseas bureaus having a supply of Form 1618 return them to the Headquarters Administrative Staff. Claims submitted by classified or for foreign national employees should be in memorandum form with doctors' statements, bills, etc. attached. Claims for foreign nationals are to be accompanied by a signed statement from the Bureau Chief or Administrative Officer stating that he will accept responsibility for receiving a settlement check in his name, converting the funds, and paying the claim.

4. Headquarters TDY: Mediterranean Bureau Operations Officer, , London Bureau Editor , and Okinawa Bureau Administrative Officer reoriented in Headquarters in connection with home leave and return to their respective field bureaus.

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5. New Employees

Assignment

Editor, ME/AF/WE/LA Sect., Editorial Branch
Teletypist, East Coast Bureau
Teletypist, Editorial Branch
Teletypist, West Coast Bureau

6. Reassignments

From

To

Editor Editorial Branch	Editor East Coast Bureau
Analyst Radio Propaganda Branch	Editor, Far East Sect., Editorial Branch
Analyst Radio Propaganda Branch	Editor, ME/AF/WE/ LA Sect., Editorial Branch
Senior Editor London Bureau	Senior Editor West Coast Bureau
Watch Officer West Coast Bureau	Watch Officer East Coast Bureau
Watch Officer Hokkaido Bureau	Watch Officer West Coast Bureau
Watch Officer West Coast Bureau	Watch Officer Mediterranean Bureau

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7. Resignations

From

Monitor, West Coast Bureau
Editor, West Coast Bureau

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ROGER G. SEELY